

May 16, 1953

Dr. Boris Rotman
Bacteriology Department
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Boris:

Thank you for your letter outlining your research plan. I think that Lardy and I would both want to facilitate your completing these details, but you will understand that we will have to meet together before any final decision.

I have what should turn out to be good news. The administration of the Heart Institute program at UW has been changed, so that the research fellows will now be paid from a grant to the University, rather than directly from Bethesda. There is therefore no technical obstacle to your appointment. The only hurdle left is whether Congress will appropriate the funds requested. As you may know, the NIH budget has been cut. As I understand it, however, the budget for the local program has not been affected, but we cannot be sure until the appropriation is actually made. Lardy seems to feel that the odds are 100:1 in favor of securing the funds. If they are not, we will all be in trouble, but I think we could scrape up enough support, for several months at least, from miscellaneous sources.

Of course, until we are able to make a definite tender to you, you need not feel obligated to dismiss alternative offers, such as the one at Columbia P&S. You have our assurance that you will be appointed if the funds permit, and you may have to evaluate for yourself the risks involved.

On the whole, it would be preferable for us for you to start in September. However, I have the funds and a little space here in the Genetics building to accommodate you over the summer, if this would be essential for you.

Would you tell the Landmans we will be happy to see them the 24th? The invitation goes for you (or anyone else there for that matter) as well. I expect ES Anderson will still be here by then.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg